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United States
Department of
Agriculture

Office of
Public Affairs

Selected Speeches and News Releases

Dec. 17 - Dec. 31, 1992

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U.S. Department of Agriculture • Office of Public Affairs

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FDA RULING ON NEW ORANGE HYBRID IS BOON TO CITRUS INDUSTRY

WASHINGTON, Dec. 17—A recent Food and Drug Administration ruling that a new orange hybrid can be used without restriction in processed juice products puts the finishing touch on 26 years of research, said the U.S. Department of Agriculture scientist who developed Ambersweet.

C. Jack Hearn, a plant geneticist in USDA's Agricultural Research Service, bred the hybrid as the first cold-hardy orange. "That effort paid off because Ambersweet has weathered freezes that wiped out less hardy citrus groves," he said. Ambersweet was turned over to Florida growers in 1989.

Until the FDA ruling, he said, only juice from the sweet orange species *C. sinensis* was approved for use without limitation in making orange juice. As a hybrid, Ambersweet did not qualify.

Ambersweet is one-half orange, three-eighths tangerine, and one-eighth grapefruit—the final combination that came from Hearn's 26 years of testing and perfecting to attain cold hardiness, early season fruit maturity, and high quality fruit and juice color.

Hearn said credit goes to ARS scientists at Winter Haven, Fla., for developing a way to prove that juice from the hybrid was more like that of an orange than that of a grapefruit, tangerine or any other type of fruit. Also, scientists from the Florida Department of Citrus have conducted cooperative processing tests since 1987.

Using mass spectrometry and gas chromatography, ARS chemist Manuel G. Moshonas at Winter Haven showed that it is almost scientifically impossible to differentiate juice of Valencia oranges from Ambersweet juice, Hearn said.

"We analyzed flavor components in fresh orange juice and found them identical to those in Ambersweet juice. The same was true for orange essence and oils," Moshonas reported. "On the other hand, there were major differences between Ambersweet and juice from tangerine, tangelo and grapefruit."

News Releases—Continued

New Globemallow Plant Could Appeal to Cattle, Sheep—and Homeowners

Fat Loss Predicted by New Equation, Scientists Report

U.S. Team Reports on Investment Opportunities in Russian Far East

USDA Researcher Reports New Disease of Pecans

USDA Protects 24 New Plant Varieties

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USDA Announces First Quarter Meat Import Estimate

Hearn said the data compiled by Moshonas was submitted to FDA in a petition from the citrus industry that led to the new ruling.

Juice from the new orange exceeds USDA color standards for Grade A juice, Hearn said, and it can also be mixed with juice from other orange varieties that by themselves do not qualify in terms of color.

Processors now either import juice from Brazil or use the late Valencia juice for blending with other varieties that don't quite make the grade. The blending process can be burdensome and expensive. Frozen Valencia concentrate must be stored from the previous season to mix with varieties like Hamlin and Parson Brown.

With the new FDA ruling, processors can be spared import and storage costs, Hearn said. The ruling was published in the Dec. 7 issue of the Federal Register.

Over 200 Florida nurseries have been marketing Ambersweet trees for more than two years. Florida growers have already planted over 20,000 acres of Ambersweet trees and would have taken an economic loss if only 10 percent of the fruit juice could be used for processing.

NOTE TO EDITORS: For details, contact C. Jack Hearn, research plant geneticist, U.S. Horticultural Research Laboratory, Agricultural Research Service, USDA, 2120 Camden Road, Orlando, Fla. 32803, telephone (407) 897-7339; or Manuel G. Moshonas, research chemist, Citrus and Subtropical Products Research Laboratory, ARS, USDA, P.O. Box 1909, Winter Haven, Fla. 33880, telephone (813) 293-4133.

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USDA TARGETS 4 COUNTRIES UNDER 1992/93 EXPORT ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM FOR WHEAT

WASHINGTON, Dec. 17—Acting Under Secretary of Agriculture R. Randall Green today announced additional opportunities for sales of U.S. wheat to Morocco, the Philippines and Cyprus and a new opportunity to Slovenia under the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Export Enhancement Program.

The allocations in metric tons are as follows:

Morocco	700,000
Cyprus	25,000
Slovenia	200,000
Philippines	450,000
Total	1,375,000

The initiative to Slovenia is the 146th initiative announced under the EEP.

Sales of wheat will be made through normal commercial channels at competitive world prices. Sales will be facilitated through the payment of bonuses of USDA's Commodity Credit Corporation.

The allocations will be valid until June 30, 1993, as provided in the invitations for offers. Details of the program will be issued in the near future.

For more information call Randy Baxter, (202) 720-5540, or Larry McElvain, (202) 720-6211.

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USDA TO INCREASE PLANT VARIETY PROTECTION FEE

WASHINGTON, Dec. 17— The U.S. Department of Agriculture will increase the fee for issuing a plant variety protection certificate from \$2,400 to \$2,600 to cover the costs of administering the program.

Daniel D. Haley, administrator of USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service, said costs include processing the application, searching for information which might challenge the uniqueness of the variety and processing the certificate, if issued.

The fees will increase from \$250 to \$275 for the application, from \$1,900 to \$2,050 for the search, and from \$250 to \$275 for processing the certificate. An applicant denied a certificate pays no certificate processing fee.

The 1970 act authorizing plant variety protection requires collection of fees to cover costs of issuing certificates. Mandated salary adjustments and changes in the federal retirement system account for most of the cost increases. Present fees have been in effect since 1989, said Haley.

In a related action, USDA changed the regulations regarding correction of issued certificates. USDA will now issue corrected certificates rather than certificates of correction.

The plant variety protection program provides patent-like security to developers of new and distinctive seed-reproduced plants ranging from food crops to ornamentals.

The notice of the fee increase will be published in the Dec. 18 Federal Register.

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USDA ANNOUNCES PREVAILING WORLD MARKET PRICE AND USER MARKETING CERTIFICATE PAYMENT RATE FOR UPLAND COTTON

Washington, Dec. 17—John Stevenson, acting executive vice president of USDA's Commodity Credit Corporation, today announced the prevailing world market price, adjusted to U.S. quality and location (adjusted world price), for Strict Low Middling (SLM) 1-1/16 inch (micronaire 3.5-3.6 and 4.3-4.9, strength 24-25 grams per tex) upland cotton (base quality) and the coarse count adjustment (CCA) in effect from 5:00 p.m. today through 3:59 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 24. The user marketing certificate payment rate announced today is in effect from 12:01 a.m. Friday, Dec. 18, through midnight Thursday, Dec. 24.

The Agricultural Act of 1949, as amended, provides that the AWP may be further adjusted if: (a) the AWP is less than 115 percent of the current crop year loan rate for base quality upland cotton, and (b) the Friday through Thursday average price quotation for the lowest-priced U.S. growth as quoted for Middling (M) 1-3/32 inch cotton, C.I.F. northern Europe (USNE price) exceeds the Northern Europe (NE) price. The maximum allowable adjustment is the difference between the USNE price and the NE price.

A further adjustment to this week's calculated AWP may be made in accordance with this provision. The calculated AWP is 78 percent of the 1992 upland cotton base quality loan rate, and the USNE price exceeds the NE price by 5.62 cents per pound. Following are the relevant calculations:

I.	Calculated AWP	40.70 cents per pound
	1992 Base Loan Rate	52.35 cents per pound
	AWP as a Percent of Loan Rate	78
II.	USNE Price	<u>60.00</u> cents per pound
	NE Price	<u>-54.38</u> cents per pound
	Maximum Adjustment Allowed	5.62 cents per pound

Based on a consideration of the U.S. share of world exports, the current level of cotton export sales and cotton export shipments, and other relevant data, no further adjustment to this week's calculated AWP will be made.

This week's AWP and coarse count adjustment are determined as follows:

Adjusted World Price

NE Price	54.38
Adjustments:	
Average U.S. spot market location	11.82
SLM 1-1/16 inch cotton	1.55
Average U.S. location	0.31
Sum of Adjustments	<u>-13.68</u>
Calculated AWP	<u>40.70</u>
Further AWP Adjustment	<u>- 0</u>
ADJUSTED WORLD PRICE	40.70 cents/lb.

Coarse Count Adjustment

NE Price	54.38
NE Coarse Count Price	<u>-50.20</u>
	4.18
Adjustment to SLM 1-1/32 inch cotton	<u>-3.95</u>
COARSE COUNT ADJUSTMENT	0.23 cents/lb.

Because the AWP is below the 1991 and 1992 base quality loan rates of 50.77 and 52.35 cents per pound, respectively, the loan repayment rate during this period is equal to the AWP, adjusted for the specific quality and location plus applicable interest and storage charges. The AWP will continue to be used to determine the value of upland cotton that is obtained in exchange for commodity certificates.

Because the AWP is below the 1992-crop loan rate, cash loan deficiency payments will be paid to eligible producers who agree to forgo obtaining a price support loan with respect to the 1992 crop. The payment rate is equal to the difference between the loan rate and the AWP. Producers are allowed to obtain a loan deficiency payment on a bale-by-bale basis.

The USNE price has exceeded the NE price by more than 1.25 cents per pound for four consecutive weeks and the AWP has not exceeded 130 percent of the 1992 crop year base quality loan rate in any week of the 4-week period. As a result, the user marketing certificate payment rate is 4.37 cents per pound. This rate is applicable for bales opened by domestic users and for cotton contracts entered into by exporters for delivery prior to September 30, 1993. Relevant data used in determining the user marketing certificate payment rate are summarized below:

Week	For the Friday through Thursday Period	USNE Current Price	NE Current Price	USNE Minus NE	Certificate Payment Rate 1/
		Cents per pound			
1	Nov. 26, 1992	58.10	53.15	4.95	3.70
2	Dec. 3, 1992	58.35	53.48	4.87	3.62
3	Dec. 10, 1992	59.85	54.10	5.75	4.50
4	Dec. 17, 1992	60.00	54.38	5.62	4.37

1/ USNE price minus NE price minus 1.25 cents.

Next week’s AWP, CCA and user marketing certificate payment rate will be announced on Thursday, Dec. 24.

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Roger Runnigen (202) 720-4623

FARM CREDIT SYSTEM ASSISTANCE BOARD VOTES TO DISSOLVE

WASHINGTON, Dec. 17—The three-member Farm Credit System Assistance Board voted today to dissolve on Dec. 31 and transfer its remaining legal obligations to the Farm Credit System Insurance Corp.

The Board, which consists of Secretary of Agriculture Edward Madigan, Secretary of the Treasury Nicholas Brady, and William W. Erwin, a working farmer from Indiana, announced Oct. 5 that it was a government agency that “is going out of business” by year’s end. (USDA News Release 0933-92). Today’s vote formally authorizes that action.

“When we announced our intent in October, I said this would be a case where the government stepped in, did its job, and now is stepping out,” said Madigan after today’s vote, adding, “and we are doing it on time and under budget.”

Board Member Erwin added: “This experience clearly demonstrates that when all parties pull together to solve a problem, the government can get in, get the job done, and then get out with much gain at little cost.”

The Board was created by Congress in 1987 as part of the Agricultural Credit Act to help with the recovery of financially stressed Farm Credit System lending institutions.

The Farm Credit System is a 75-year old financial cooperative for farmers, ranchers and rural cooperatives, and finances roughly one-third of all agricultural credit in the United States. It was strongly affected by the agricultural recession of the 1980’s. The aid mechanism established by Congress authorized up to \$4 billion in privately financed, federally guaranteed assistance bonds. Of this \$4 billion in potential assistance, the Farm Credit System used \$1.26 billion, distributed to five FCS banks.

Earlier this year, because the Farm Credit System has recovered relatively quickly from the 1980’s recession, two FCS banks pre-paid their assistance debt 11 years ahead of schedule.

No further financial assistance has been requested by or will be provided to FCS institutions, the Board said.

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U.S. DONATES BUTTER AND BUTTEROIL TO MONGOLIA

WASHINGTON, Dec. 18—The United States will donate 5,000 metric tons of U.S. butter and 2,000 tons of butteroil to Mongolia, according to Christopher E. Goldthwait, acting general sales manager of the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Foreign Agricultural Service.

The \$14.3 million donation will be used by the Mongolian government to generate local currencies from the sales of the commodities, to provide food assistance to the needy and for developmental activities in the Mongolian agricultural sector.

The donation was made under Section 416(b) of the Agricultural Act of 1949, which authorizes the donation of surplus commodities owned by

USDA's Commodity Credit Corporation to developing countries. The supply period is fiscal 1993.

This is the first U.S. donation to Mongolia under the Section 416 program. For more information, contact James F. Keefer, FAS (202) 720-5263.

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Issued: Dec. 18, 1992

CHRISTMAS TREE INDUSTRY IS ALIVE AND WELL

WASHINGTON—What helps rural economies, improves the environment, and creates fragrant holiday memories, all at the same time? If you said a live Christmas tree, you're right!

Americans will buy over 36 million live Christmas trees this holiday season. Where do they come from? And what should you do with them after the holidays are over?

According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, nine of every 10 Christmas trees in the United States are growing on plantations, or tree farms. "Farmers grow Christmas trees much as they grow other crops," says F. Dale Robertson, chief of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Forest Service. "But a Christmas tree's 'growing season' lasts about seven years, instead of the few months that most crops take to mature."

As with other crops, new trees are planted after the old ones are harvested. Generally, two to three new seedlings are planted for every Christmas tree harvested. In another seven years, a new crop of trees is ready for Christmas.

Christmas tree farming operations range in size from a few acres on a small family farm to thousands of acres. They are grown in all 50 states. Top producing states are Oregon, Michigan, Wisconsin, California, Pennsylvania, and North Carolina.

Nationally, over 100,000 people are employed in the Christmas tree industry, and retail and wholesale sales generate about \$1.2 billion annually.

While Christmas trees help local economies, they also help the environment, says Robertson. As the trees grow, they replenish earth's oxygen supply, keep soil from eroding and polluting water supplies, act as sound and wind barriers, and provide habitat for birds and animals. They are also pleasing to look at.

When the holiday season is over, you can further help the environment by recycling your Christmas tree, Robertson says. You can turn it into wood chips or mulch for your garden, or use it as a perch for birds. In some areas, local agencies collect trees for recycling.

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U.S. TO DONATE CORN TO UKRAINE

WASHINGTON, Dec. 18—The United States will donate 200,000 metric tons of corn to the Republic of Ukraine under the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food for Progress program, Secretary of Agriculture Edward Madigan announced today.

Madigan said the \$19 million donation will be sold by the Ukraine government to help in the development of private sector structures and markets.

Ukraine will pay for all ocean transportation, inland transportation, handling, storage and distribution costs within Ukraine. In accordance with cargo preference requirements, 75 percent of the commodities will be shipped on U.S. flag vessels.

Under the Food for Progress Program, USDA provides commodities to needy countries to encourage agricultural reform. Under the terms of this agreement, Ukraine has agreed to carry out a number of measures to expand the role of the private sector and improve food supplies.

The corn will be purchased on behalf of USDA's Commodity Credit Corporation on an open tender basis by USDA's Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service's Kansas City commodity office. The supply period is fiscal 1993.

For more information, contact James F. Keefer at (202) 720-9263.

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Bruce Kinzel (301) 504-8739
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FOOD POISONING DETECTION TEST LICENSED BY NEW YORK FIRM

WASHINGTON, Dec. 21 — A test that accurately confirms the presence of a difficult to identify food-poisoning bacterium has been licensed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's chief science agency.

Dole Associates Inc. of Katonah, N.Y., has been granted a license by USDA's Agricultural Research Service to commercialize the test which uses Congo red dye to detect the bacterium *Yersinia enterocolitica*. Company officials report that four firms are interested in marketing the test.

Microbiologist Saumya Bhaduri, who developed the test at the ARS Eastern Regional Research Center in Philadelphia, said *Y. enterocolitica* can reach infectious levels in milk, beef and other meat products within four days during refrigerated storage.

He said the test was used earlier this year by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration to verify reports of food poisoning linked with *Y. enterocolitica* in Los Angeles County, Calif.

Bhaduri said the pathogen "is deceiving because only some strains of *Y. enterocolitica* can be harmful." His test, for which a patent has been filed, detects the harmful strains and also allows for recovery of the bacterium to verify results.

"Recovery is important if the initial results of a test in the field have to be confirmed," said Bhaduri, who is with the Philadelphia center's Microbial Food Safety Research Unit. "The tests available now either kill or alter the bacterium after detection."

Testing can be done in 12 hours after initial isolation of the bacterium from food samples, he said. Also, tests can be performed directly from clinical samples because the number of harmful strains is adequate for detection.

Last spring in Los Angeles County, a cluster of cases involving the bacterium surfaced in a small area, but scientists at the California Department of Health in Davis, Calif., were unable to detect harmful strains in a plasmid analysis. A plasmid is a small piece of DNA carrying genetic information. In the case of *Y. enterocolitica*, the plasmid converts a harmless strain to a disease-causing strain.

"This organism is very difficult to isolate," said Sharon Abbott, bacteriology supervisor with the California health department. "We attempted to link these strains through plasmid analysis and they were all negative."

Abbott sent bacterium samples obtained from patients to FDA's Seattle District. Steven D. Weagant, a FDA microbiologist, used Bhaduri's test and detected a 0.3 percent level of plasmid in the samples. He cultured the bacterium again and the level of plasmid-bearing cells increased to 92 percent, verifying that it was a pathogen.

While the Congo red dye test detects harmful strains carrying a low level of plasmid-bearing cells, it also indicates how sensitive the bacterium is to other detection treatments, Weagant said.

He said the testing "showed us that much more care needs to be taken when testing for virulence." Weagant said most labs are not equipped to handle detailed plasmid testing of *Y. enterocolitica* to confirm if it is a pathogen.

"This test will definitely help," Abbott added, "because it allows small and large laboratories to detect a (harmful) cluster in a short period of time."

Harmful strains of the bacterium can be collected from food, food processing equipment and water and sewer treatment facilities. The bacterium is then grown in a laboratory for identification and verification, Bhaduri said.

Bhaduri's test is still available for licensing by other companies, said Ann Whitehead, coordinator of ARS' national patent and licensing program, at Beltsville, Md.

NOTE TO EDITORS: For details, contact Saumya Bhaduri, microbiologist, Microbial Food Safety Research Unit, Eastern Regional Research Center, USDA, ARS, Philadelphia, Pa. 19188. Telephone (215) 233-6521.

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Dana Stewart (202) 720-5091
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FGIS INCREASES FEES FOR RICE INSPECTION

WASHINGTON, Dec. 18—The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Federal Grain Inspection Service is increasing fees for federal rice inspection services approximately 6 percent.

On April 17, 1991, FGIS published an interim rule in the Federal Register that implemented fee increases for rice inspection and laboratory test services. The rule also allowed the agency to implement additional fee increases for rice inspection services, if needed, on Jan. 1, 1993, and Jan. 1, 1995.

According to FGIS administrator John C. Foltz, the agency is required by law to cover, as nearly as practicable, costs for its rice inspection services with user fees. Foltz said the current fee increase is needed to cover the agency's projected operating costs.

The rice inspection fee increase becomes effective Jan. 1, 1993.

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U.S. TO DONATE FEED WHEAT TO BELARUS

WASHINGTON, Dec. 18—The United States will donate 50,000 metric tons of feed wheat to Belarus, Secretary of Agriculture Edward Madigan announced today.

“This donation will help achieve two objectives,” said Madigan. “It will supplement Belarus’ animal feed supply to help ensure adequate production of meat, poultry and dairy products. Second, proceeds from the sale will fund projects to provide nutrition and health assistance to the needy, including victims of Chernobyl, and help promote free and competitive markets for private agribusiness.”

Madigan said the \$5 million donation will be delivered to Belarussian government mills, where it will be mixed with other feed components and subsequently sold as animal feed to private and public sector livestock and poultry producers in the country.

The donation will be made under Section 416(b) of the Agricultural Act of 1949. Section 416(b), which is administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Foreign Agriculture Service, authorizes the donation of surplus commodities owned by USDA’s Commodity Credit Corporation to needy people overseas.

In September Madigan announced U.S. intentions to donate under Section 416(b) about 68 million bushels (about 1.8 million tons) of feed-quality wheat from the Food Security Wheat Reserve (USDA news release number 0871-92).

Belarus is the first country to sign an agreement with USDA under this initiative.

The supply period of this donation is fiscal 1993.

For more information, contact James F. Keefer, FAS, (202) 720-5263.

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U.S. TO DONATE FEED WHEAT TO ARMENIA

WASHINGTON, Dec. 18—Secretary of Agriculture Edward Madigan today announced the United States will donate 50,000 metric tons of feed wheat to Armenia.

The \$5 million donation will be delivered to Armenian government mills and subsequently sold as animal feed to private and public sector livestock and poultry producers.

Proceeds from the sale will be used by the Armenian government to develop the country's private sector agricultural economy and to provide food aid and health services for the needy and elderly in Armenia.

The supply period of the donation is fiscal 1993.

The donation will be made under Section 416(b) of the Agricultural Act of 1949, which authorizes the donation of surplus commodities owned by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Commodity Credit Corporation to developing countries. The program is administered by USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service.

For more information, contact James F. Keefer, FAS, (202) 720-5263.

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USDA ANNOUNCES MARKET PROMOTION PROGRAM ALLOCATIONS FOR FISCAL 1993

WASHINGTON, Dec. 18—The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Foreign Agricultural Service today announced Market Promotion Program allocations of \$147.734 million to 66 commodity groups and regional trade organizations for fiscal 1993.

The MPP is authorized by the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990, which requires that USDA use funds or commodities from the Commodity Credit Corporation to "encourage the development, maintenance, and expansion of commercial export markets for agricultural commodities through cost share assistance to eligible trade organizations that implement a foreign market development program."

The MPP is administered by USDA’s Foreign Agricultural Service through cooperative agreements between the CCC and the agricultural industry representatives listed below.

Authority to expend promotional resources provided in these allocations is a two-stage process. First, CCC must approve the recipient’s application for funds, set its 1993 allocation level, overall program ceiling, budget ceilings by country, budget ceilings by country for branded and generic activities, and conditions relating to the conduct of the 1993 program.

In the second stage, as prescribed in the application approval letter, the recipient will submit a detailed plan fully describing proposed activities, related budgets by cost codes, and resources to be contributed by the recipient. Private U.S. firms will have an opportunity to apply for participation in the Export Incentive Programs listed below. Procedures and deadlines for EIP participation will be announced at a later date.

For additional information and referral to the appropriate program contact, call (202) 720-5521.

A list of the 66 commodity groups and regional trade organizations appears on the following pages.

MARKET PROMOTION PROGRAM ALLOCATIONS, FISCAL YEAR 1993

Nonprofit Applicant Organizations:	Commodities:	Allocations (million \$)
Alaska Seafood Marketing Institute	Salmon and Crab	6.960
Almond Board of California	Almonds	3.230
American Indian Trade and Development Council	Beef, Seafood, and Buffalo Meat (from reservations)	.075
American Sheep Industry Association	Wool and Breeding Sheep	.240
American Soybean Association	Soybeans and Soybean Products	3.300

Asparagus USA	Fresh, Processed, and Frozen Asparagus	.340
Brandy Export Association	Fruit Brandy and Grappa	.830
California Avocado Commission	Avocados and Avocado Products	.440
California Cling Peach Advisory Board/Pacific Coast Canned Pear Service	Canned Peaches, Pears, and Fruit Cocktail	1.620
California Kiwifruit Commission	Fresh Kiwifruit	.490
California Pistachio Commission	Pistachios, Raw and Roasted	1.310
California Prune Board	Prunes and Prune Products	4.950
California Raisin Advisory Board	Raisins and Raisin Products	4.130
California Strawberry Advisory Board	Fresh and Frozen Strawberries	.370
California Table Grape Commission	Fresh Table Grapes	2.550
California Tomato Board	Fresh Tomatoes	.140
California Tree Fruit Agreement	Plums, Prunes, Peaches, Nectarines and Bartlett Pears	.340
California Walnut Commission	Walnuts	4.780
Catfish Institute	Catfish	.210
Cherry Marketing Institute, Inc.	Processed Tart Cherries	.380

Chocolate Manufacturers Association	Chocolate and Sugar Confectionery Products	2.570
Cotton Council International	Raw Cotton and Cotton Products	10.340
Eastern U.S. Agricultural and Food Export Council (EUSAFEC)	Regional High-Value Food and Agricultural Products	4.200
Florida Department of Citrus	Florida Fresh and Processed Citrus	7.170
Ginseng Board of Wisconsin, Inc.	Ginseng Root	.310
Hop Growers of America, Inc.	Hop Cones, Ground Hop Cones Hop Cone Pellets, Hop Extract	.170
International Apple Institute	Fresh Apples	.910
Kentucky Distillers' Association	Bourbon whiskey	3.470
Mid-America International Agri-Trade Council (MIATCO)	Regional High-Value Food and Agricultural Products	4.420
Mohair Council of America .110	Mohair	
National Association of Animal Breeders	Bovine Semen	.280
National Association of State Departments of Agriculture (NASDA)	Regional High-Value Food and Agricultural Products	.380
National Dairy Research and Promotion Board	Dairy Products	.280
National Dry Bean Council	Dry Edible Beans	1.060

National Honey Board	Honey and Honey Products	.200
National Peanut Council	Peanuts and Peanut Products	2.680
National Potato Promotion Board	Fresh and Processed Potatoes	2.670
National Renderers Association	Edible and Inedible Tallow	.180
National Sunflower Association	Sunflowerseed, Sunflowerseed Oil and Confection Sunflowerseed	1.620
New York Wine and Grape Foundation	Wine	.110
North American Export Grain Association	Grains and Oilseeds	.400
Northwest Cherry Growers	Fresh Sweet Cherries	.520
Northwest Wine Promotion Coalition	Wine	.340
Oregon Seed Council	Grass Seed	.085
Oregon-Washington-California Pear Bureau	Fresh Pears	2.100
Petfood Institute	Pet Foods	.830
Popcorn Institute	Popcorn	.500
Southern United States Trade Association (SUSTA)	Regional High-Value Food and Agricultural Products	4.940
Southeast Fisheries Association	Squid	.140

USA Dry Pea and Lentil Council	Edible Dry Peas and Lentils	.420
USA Rice Council	Rice, Rice Products, and Rice By-Products	4.860
USA Poultry & Egg Export Council, Inc.	Poultry Meat, Eggs, and Related Products	7.100
U.S. Dairy Genetics Council	Dairy Breeding Cattle	.150
U.S. Feed Grains Council	Corn, Sorghum, Barley and Their Products	1.120
U.S. Meat Export Federation	Red Meats Derived From the Bovine, Equine, Ovine and Porcine Animal Species, Including Their Variety Meats/Offals and Processed Products of Which They are the Major Ingredient	10.370
U.S. Mink Export Development Council	Raw and Dressed U.S. Mink Pelts	1.100
U.S. Surimi Commission	Surimi	.110
U.S. Wheat Associates	Wheat	3.010
Vodka Producers Association	Vodka	.260
Washington State Apple Commission	Fresh Apples	3.910
Wild Blueberry Association of North America	Semi-Moist, Frozen, and Canned Wild Blueberries	.044
Wine Institute	California Grape Wine	11.680
Western U.S. Agricultural Trade Association (WUSATA)	Regional High-Value Food and Agricultural Products	6.370

Export Incentive Programs:	California and Arizona	4.730
	Fresh and Processed Citrus	
	Processed Sweet Corn	1.620
	Processed Tomato Products	.210
Reserved by CCC for Evaluation Projects 1/		1.000
		TOTAL 147.734

1/ This amount has been reserved by the Commodity Credit Corporation to monitor and evaluate MPP program effectiveness.

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MORE SCS “EARTH TEAM” VOLUNTEERS HELP APPLY CONSERVATION

WASHINGTON, Dec. 17—More than 9,700 volunteers on the Soil Conservation Service’s Earth Team contributed over 460,000 valuable hours to soil and water conservation efforts during fiscal 1992, according to SCS Administrator William Richards.

SCS manages several U.S. Department of Agriculture programs designed to conserve the nation’s soil and water resources.

“Over 1,000 volunteers have been added to the national Earth Team roll this year,” said Richards. “Volunteers help to conserve our resources, and our schools and communities benefit from the conservation education programs the team organizes.”

Earth Team volunteers represent a wide age range from teens to nursing home residents. They work on farms and ranches and help landowners to reduce wind and water erosion, conserve water, enhance wildlife, and reduce upstream flooding.

In urban areas, volunteers help with information and water management activities and with open space planning. In SCS offices, they do various assignments, such as administrative duties, making soil survey and conservation planning maps, and collecting natural resource data.

The Earth Team works in schools and communities to plan outdoor classrooms and community projects.

“These volunteers bring special talents and enthusiasm that helps SCS in its mission of natural resource conservation,” Richards said.

Individuals wishing to participate as Earth Team volunteers or wanting to receive more information may call their local Soil Conservation Service office or 1-800-THE-SOIL.

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Diane O'Connor (202) 720-4026

ALLEGHENY NATIONAL WILD AND SCENIC RIVER ADVISORY COUNCILS NAMED

WASHINGTON, Dec. 21—Deputy Secretary of Agriculture Ann M. Veneman today appointed 14 members to two advisory councils for the Allegheny National Wild and Scenic River in western Pennsylvania.

The councils are composed of individuals, organizations, agencies and governments concerned with the establishment and management of the Allegheny Wild and Scenic River corridor. The Northern Advisory Council will advise USDA's Forest Service on the establishment of the final boundaries and management of the river between Kinzua Dam and Alcorn Island at Oil City. The Southern Advisory Council will advise on the section of river between Franklin and Emlenton.

Three sections of the Allegheny totaling 85 miles were added to the National Wild and Scenic River System as a recreational river on April 20. The designation will help maintain and enhance the outstandingly remarkable scenic, recreational, ecological and cultural values identified along these sections of river.

Lionel Lemery, representing the Allegheny National Forest, will head the Northern Advisory Council. Other members include: Marion Hrubovcak, representing the secretary of the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Resources; Harold Coleman and John Brown, M.D., Warren County; Jack Sherman and Robert Carringer, Forest County; Norman Pattison and James Etzel, Venango County; and Lewis Weingard, Forest County Conservation District.

Marion Hrubovcak, representing the secretary of the Pennsylvania DER, will head the Southern Advisory Council. Other members include Lionel Lemery, Allegheny National Forest; John Hummel, James Wilson, Marlin

Gatty and Ronald Larimore, Venengo County; and Thomas Thomas, Pennsylvania Environmental Council.

The first meeting of the councils will be held in late January or early February 1993. The date and location will be announced in local media and the Federal Register. The public is invited to attend all meetings of the councils.

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NEW GLOBEMALLOW PLANT COULD APPEAL TO CATTLE, SHEEP—AND HOMEOWNERS

WASHINGTON, Dec. 22—Red-flowered globemallow may provide a grazing treat for rangeland animals and an attractive, hardy ornamental for home gardeners, according to U.S. Department of Agriculture scientists.

“In our four-year grazing experiment, sheep ate one species of globemallow as readily as alfalfa and crested wheatgrass—two common pasture species,” said plant geneticist Melvin D. Rumbaugh. “But globemallows can survive in very dry areas where other forage plants would perish.”

Rumbaugh said a different globemallow forage species is also “a good choice for wildflower seed mixtures and a perfect choice for drought-tolerant gardens, since it thrives in dry, sunny climates.” The plant has attractive brick-red blooms and succulent green leaves and grows up to two feet tall, according to a report in the current issue of *Agricultural Research* magazine.

Native to North America, globemallows grow wild in the west from Arizona to the Canadian border. “But as far as we know, no one has really cultivated globemallow as a potential new forage or as an ornamental,” said Rumbaugh, who recently retired from USDA’s Agricultural Research Service in Logan, Utah.

Globemallows, he noted, belong to the mallow family, which includes cotton, hollyhocks, hibiscus and marshmallow—the plant whose ground-up roots were originally used in the sugary, spongy confections of the same name.

Rumbaugh and colleague Bruce M. Pendery studied globemallow as part of research to find new, improved forage plants for sheep and cattle, at the ARS Forage and Range Research Laboratory in Logan.

Pendery has small quantities of seed of two globemallow species—*Sphaeralcea coccinea* for forage and *S. munroana* for gardeners—available to nurseries and breeders free of charge.

Both species, especially the low-growing *S. coccinea*, could be useful for protecting and restoring areas of eroded soils, like those at abandoned mine sites or along roadsides, said Pendery.

Rumbaugh selected the globemallow intended for home gardens from among 49 different types of *S. munroana* plants grown from seeds collected in Idaho, Utah and Wyoming.

And for a grazing experiment he planted 14 different species collected from rangelands in the Rocky Mountain and Great Plains regions. Sheep preferred one scarlet globemallow—*S. coccinea*—over all the other species. “Scarlet globemallows spread quickly because they have underground stems, or rhizomes, that sprout and grow new plants nearby,” said Rumbaugh.

NOTE TO EDITORS: For details, contact Bruce M. Pendery, geneticist, Forage and Range Research Laboratory, Agricultural Research Service, USDA, Logan, Utah 84322-6300. Telephone: (801) 750-3066.

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FAT LOSS PREDICTED BY NEW EQUATION, SCIENTISTS REPORT

WASHINGTON, Dec. 23—Physicians of the future might use a simple blood test and a pocket calculator to estimate how much fat a dieting patient will lose, a U.S. Department of Agriculture scientist said.

“A physician would plug the blood test result into an equation to quickly calculate fat loss from a three-month weight-loss regimen,” said chemist Nancy L. Keim of USDA’s Agricultural Research Service.

“A fat loss forecast might help dieters set realistic goals and avoid becoming discouraged when they hit a plateau. It could also help them escape the traps of yo-yo diets and crash diets that aren’t nutritionally sound,” said Keim, based at the ARS Western Human Nutrition Research Center in San Francisco, Calif.

She developed the equation following a study of 10 women volunteers, age 18 to 37, at the San Francisco center. A follow-up test, also with women

who are some 25 to 50 pounds overweight, is planned for spring 1993 and will be conducted by research physiologist Herman L. Johnson at the center.

After that test, Keim would like to have dieters at weight loss centers around the country volunteer to test the equation. "For instance, we need to test it with other age groups, with men and with greatly overweight patients of both sexes," she said. "If testing could be done nationally, it wouldn't take long to have the equation available to doctors."

The equation is linked to a measurement of compounds known as free fatty acids that circulate in the bloodstream, she explained. "For the blood test, only a small blood sample, collected a few days after a diet starts, is needed. The sample is taken right after exercise but before breakfast."

Keim screened a dozen biochemical factors before identifying fatty acids as the one most strongly correlated with the volunteers' fat loss. The higher the volunteers' blood levels of free fatty acids, she said, the higher was their fat loss.

Fatty acids detected in the blood test originate from stored fat. They are released into the blood when the stress of exercise triggers a hormonal response, she said. Some of the hormones stimulate enzymes that, in turn, free up fatty acids that would otherwise be bound in stored fat. Keim said that the fatty-acid test is not new, but applying its results to the equation is.

"If the equation holds true," she said, "it could really help the repeat or the yo-yo syndrome dieter. They get trapped in a cycle of losing and re-gaining weight, and can find it increasingly hard to lose weight with each successive diet. A scientifically sound prediction of fat loss would help them set up—and stick with—a plan for slower but sensible weight loss."

The equation might also help health care professionals adjust weight loss regimens to take into account special needs of the slow-to-lose dieter.

Keim produced the equation with ARS researchers Teresa F. Barbieri and Marta D. Van Loan at San Francisco.

NOTE TO EDITORS: For details, contact Nancy L. Keim, research chemist, Bioenergetics Research Unit, Western Human Nutrition Research Center, USDA, ARS, Presidio of San Francisco, Calif. 94129. Telephone (415) 556-8821.

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U.S. TEAM REPORTS ON INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES IN RUSSIAN FAR EAST

WASHINGTON, Dec. 23—Investment opportunities in the Russian Far East abound, but U.S. agribusiness must be aware of the risks, according to an assessment mission's study prepared for the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Christopher Goldthwait, acting general sales manager for USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service, said the mission to the Russian Far East was the first to Russia under the Emerging Democracies Program. A follow-up mission will travel to the same region in January.

The Russian Far East is the resource rich, undeveloped region of the Russian Federation that borders the Japan Sea on the east, and North Korea and China on the South. The areas visited by the mission team include the Primorskiy and Khabarovskiy regions, Amurskaya and Sakhalinskaya Oblasts, the Jewish Autonomous Region, and the cities of Vladivostok and Khabarovsk.

"The team found that Russian officials and entrepreneurs are eager to do business with the United States," Goldthwait said. "However, investments in this area obviously are not without risk, so U.S. investors must carefully weigh both the rewards and the risks."

The mission team reported investment opportunities in areas such as construction of soybean crushing plants, grain elevators, cracker manufacturing and dairy processing plants. Also needed are mills to make furniture, lumber and corrugated boxes, and fish canning and refrigeration facilities. Timber harvesting and food processing equipment also are needed, according to the report.

"The objectives of the mission are to evaluate potential trade and investment opportunities in the Russian Far East, and then inform U.S. agribusiness of the opportunities," Goldthwait said. USDA also will share the information with other U.S. government agencies involved in finance and development activities, he said.

Team leaders for the mission are Bill Mott, president of Agland Investment Services, Inc., Larkspur, Calif., and John Ward, president of Ward International Association, Inc., Washington, D.C.

For more information on the Emerging Democracies Program, contact the Eastern Europe and Former Soviet Union Secretariat, FAS, (202) 720-0368.

USDA RESEARCHER REPORTS NEW DISEASE OF PECANS

WASHINGTON, Dec. 29—A new disease of pecans has cut yields by about one-half in some Georgia orchards, reported a U.S. Department of Agriculture plant pathologist.

Charles C. Reilly, with USDA's Agricultural Research Service in Byron, Ga., said the disease is caused by the soil-borne fungus *Phytophthora cactorum*. There is evidence that the disease occurs in other areas of the Southeast. He said rain spreads the fungus.

"After several days of rain in August, I noticed signs of rot around the stem ends of nuts on some of the local pecan trees," Reilly said in the December issue of *Agricultural Research* magazine. "Within a day or two, the rot had circled the shuck and moved all the way to the tip of the fruit." A shuck is the immature nut's hard, green covering.

Within four days, he said, the pecans were rotted and the shucks had become almost black and were moist and spongy. He said he first found signs of the disease in 1988 in a south Georgia pecan orchard and that fungicides registered for use on pecans can control the fungus.

"We are not dealing with pecan scab attacks both the pecan leaves and the fruit," Reilly said. Pecan scab is the nut's number one disease problem.

Reilly, who named the new disease *Phytophthora* shuck and kernel rot, said it struck even orchards that were "well managed, irrigated and mature." The disease can be managed by judicious application of existing fungicides registered for use on pecans, he said.

At the ARS Southeastern Fruit and Tree Nut Research Laboratory in Byron, Reilly has identified a new disease that was first noticed on last year's crop. As yet unnamed, this new disease not only causes the pecan nut to rot, but also causes dieback of twigs on which the nut forms, he said. Dieback occurs when the infection moves into the stem and destroys that part of the branch to which the nut is attached.

Stress, such as heavy fruit-set or drought, seems to increase the severity of the disease.

Reilly found this new disease in pecan orchards throughout Georgia. "We know this disease is caused by a fungus in the genus *Phomopsis*, but we haven't identified the particular fungus," he said.

This new disease can be controlled, Reilly suggested, with the same fungicides used against pecan scab.

Production of pecans in the United States went from 205 million pounds in 1990 to 299 million in 1991.

NOTE TO EDITORS: For details, contact Charles C. Reilly, plant pathologist, Southeastern Fruit and Tree Nut Research Laboratory, USDA, ARS, Byron, Ga. 31008. Telephone: (912) 956-5656.

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USDA PROTECTS 24 NEW PLANT VARIETIES

WASHINGTON, Dec. 29—The U.S. Department of Agriculture has issued certificates of protection to developers of 24 new varieties of seedreproduced plants including Kentucky bluegrass, corn, lettuce, pea, sorghum and soybean.

Kenneth H. Evans, an official with USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service, said developers of the new varieties will have the exclusive right to reproduce, sell, import and export their products in the United States for 18 years. Certificates of protection are granted after a review of the breeders' records and claims that each variety is novel, uniform and stable.

The following varieties have been issued certificates of protection:

- the Gemar, Greenley and Ronde varieties of Kentucky bluegrass, developed by the Idaho Agricultural Experiment Station, Moscow, Idaho;
- the F118 variety of corn, developed by DeKalb Plant Genetics, DeKalb, Ill.;
- the Romulus variety of lettuce, developed by Petoseed Co. Inc., Woodland, Calif.;
- the Impact variety of lettuce, developed by Arthur Yates & Co. Pty. Ltd., Narromine, New South Wales, Australia;
- the Sun Burst variety of pea, developed by Pure Line Seeds Inc., Moscow, Idaho;
- the Turbo, Alsweet III and Filly varieties of pea, developed by the Asgrow Seed Co., Kalamazoo, Mich.;
- the Booster variety of pea, developed by the Nunhems Seed Corp., Lewisville, Idaho;
- the Sonic variety of pea, developed by the Rogers NK Seed Co., Boise, Idaho;

- the PH288, PH328, PH333, PH352, PH355, PH356, PH410 and PH 449 varieties of sorghum, developed by Pioneer Hi-Bred International Inc., Des Moines, Iowa;

- the Delsoy 4900 variety of soybean, developed by the Curators of the University of Missouri, Portageville, Mo.;

- the A1662 variety of soybean, developed by the Asgrow Seed Co., Kalamazoo, Mich.;

- the Leslie variety of soybean, developed by the Minnesota Agricultural Experiment Station, St. Paul, Minn.; and

- the FFR 253 variety of soybean, developed by the FFR Cooperative, West Lafayette, Ind.

The certificates of protection for the Gemar, Greenley and Ronde Kentucky bluegrass varieties and the Delsoy 4900 and Leslie soybean varieties are being issued for sale by variety name only as a class of certified seed and to conform to the number of generations specified by the owner.

USDA's AMS administers the plant variety protection program which provides marketing protection to developers of new and distinctive seedreproduced plants ranging from farm crops to flowers.

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USDA ANNOUNCES PREVAILING WORLD MARKET RICE PRICES

WASHINGTON, Dec. 29—Acting Under Secretary of Agriculture Randall Green today announced the prevailing world market prices of milled rice, loan rate basis, as follows:

—long grain whole kernels, 8.63 cents per pound;

—medium grain whole kernels, 7.81 cents per pound;

—short grain whole kernels, 7.78 cents per pound;

—broken kernels, 4.32 cents per pound.

Based upon these prevailing world market prices for milled rice, loan deficiency payment rates and gains from repaying price support loans at the world market price level are:

—for long grain, \$1.31 per hundredweight;

—for medium grain, \$1.22 per hundredweight;

—for short grain, \$1.23 per hundredweight.

The prices announced are effective today at 3 p.m. EST. The next scheduled price announcement will be made Jan. 5, 1993 at 3 p.m. EST.

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U.S. TO DONATE PEANUTS TO RUSSIAN FEDERATION

WASHINGTON, Dec. 30—The United States will donate \$3 million worth of raw peanuts to the Russian Federation, Deputy Secretary of Agriculture Ann M. Veneman announced today.

The raw peanuts, about 1,622 metric tons, will be sold by the Russian government to the confectionery industry for processing. The proceeds will be used by the Russian Commission for International Humanitarian and Technical Assistance to fund projects to be determined by the commission.

The donation is being made under the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food For Progress Program, and is part of a \$250 million package of humanitarian food assistance to the Russian Federation announced by Secretary of Agriculture Edward Madigan Sept. 14 (USDA news release no. 0854-92).

Under the Food for Progress Program, USDA provides commodities to needy countries to encourage agricultural reform. The program is administered by USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service.

The supply period for this donation is fiscal 1993.

For more information, contact James F. Keefer, FAS, (202) 720-5263.

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WEED EYED AS RICH SOURCE OF NUTRIENTS

WASHINGTON, Dec. 30—One person's weed is another person's salad. At least that's the case for a plant called purslane.

American farmers curse it for crowding out crops, particularly vegetables. It will grow in all soils—even poor-quality soils with little water—it resists disease and its seeds have been found to survive for 40 years.

But a new study gives purslane a passing grade for its vitamins and other nutrients says U.S. Department of Agriculture researchers . “It has higher levels of vitamin E and key fatty acids than spinach,” said Helen A. Norman, a plant biochemist with USDA’s Agricultural Research Service in Beltsville, Md.

People in Europe and other parts of the world have been eating purslane for years, cutting it up in their salads or cooking it. Its fleshy leaves, about the size of a fingernail, have a mild, nutty taste. In the late 1800s, at least one American did as the Europeans do today. Henry David Thoreau is said to have cooked it and called it a “satisfactory dinner.”

Norman and cooperating researchers have confirmed that its nutritional benefits are more than satisfactory. They found that one species of purslane contains high levels of vitamin E and the valuable nutrient called omega-3 linolenic acid.

There are about 200 species of purslane, the common name for a group of plants in the genus *Portulaca*. Norman said she and other scientists with ARS and The Center for Genetics, Nutrition and Health in Washington, DC, studied one species—*Portulaca oleracea*—found around the world and in all 50 states.

They focused on that species because of its high levels of fatty acids. They confirmed that *P. oleracea* contains more of one omega-3 fatty acid— called alpha-linolenic acid—than any other green leafy vegetable studied to date. A 100-gram serving has about 300 to 400 milligrams of alpha-linolenic acid— 10 times more than spinach, Norman said.

These fatty acids, linked in some studies to reduced heart disease and other health benefits, are essential in building cell membranes, especially in the brain and eyes, Norman says.

Humans cannot efficiently make omega-3 fatty acids, so they must be obtained directly from food. Fish is a rich source of certain of these fatty acids, while plants typically contain lower amounts of them. But, she said, *P. oleracea* is a major exception.

She said the researchers also discovered that purslane contains high levels of vitamin E—about 12.2 mg in a 100 g serving. That’s six times more than spinach. Vitamin E is an anti-oxidant that protects cell membranes from breaking down.

The research team included Norman, at the agency’s Weed Science Laboratory; James A. Duke at the ARS National Germplasm Resources Laboratory in Beltsville; Artemis P. Simopoulos of The Center for Genetics, Nutrition and Health in Washington, DC; and scientist James E. Gillaspay of Austin, TX. Their findings were reported in the August 1992 issue of the

Journal of the American College of Nutrition.

Previous ARS research at the U.S. Salinity Laboratory in Riverside, CA, showed that purslane would grow in arid areas of the southwestern United States. That's because it is adaptable to dry conditions and to salty soils often present where land is irrigated. <pp>NOTE TO EDITORS: For details, contact Helen A. Norman, Weed Science Laboratory, Beltsville Agricultural Research Center, ARS, USDA, Beltsville, MD 20705. Phone: (301) 504-6471.

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APHIS PROGRAM HELPS SOUTHERN STATES ERADICATE BOLL WEEVIL

HYATTSVILLE, Md., Dec. 30—For the first time since the early 1900s, South Carolina cotton farmers did not have to apply pesticide to protect their crop from the boll weevil, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

"This is a major victory in the expanding battle to eradicate the boll weevil from infested areas of the cotton belt," said B. Glen Lee, deputy administrator for APHIS's Plant Protection and Quarantine program. "It looks like the boll weevil may not make it to its 100th birthday in South Carolina and other Southeastern states."

Boll weevils cause an estimated \$200 million in crop losses annually. They were first discovered in the United States in 1892.

Since 1983, the Cooperative Boll Weevil Eradication Program has worked with growers and agriculture officials in Virginia, North Carolina and South Carolina. To further protect cotton crops from the boll weevil, in 1987 the program expanded into Georgia, Florida and portions of Alabama. The program eradicated the pest in Virginia in 1983 and in North Carolina in 1988.

"It's encouraging to find Georgia, Florida and parts of Alabama now nearly free of one of the most significant agricultural pests in America," Lee said. "The best news is that growers report a 10 percent increase in cotton yields and a 30-to-100 percent reduction in pesticide use on cotton since the program began."

The Boll Weevil Eradication Program is funded jointly by APHIS, several affected states and all cotton growers in the program area. Prior to the program, growers fought the pest alone with limited success.

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U.S. TO DONATE CORN TO LATVIA

WASHINGTON, Dec. 30—The United States will donate 200,000 metric tons of corn to the Republic of Latvia under the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food for Progress Program, Secretary of Agriculture Edward Madigan announced today.

Madigan said the \$19 million donation will be sold by the Latvian government to help in the development of private sector institutions and markets.

Latvia will pay for all ocean transportation, inland transportation, handling, storage and distribution costs within Latvia. In accordance with cargo preference requirements, 75 percent of the commodities will be shipped on U.S. flag vessels.

Under the Food for Progress Program, USDA provides commodities to needy countries to encourage agricultural reform. Under the terms of this agreement, Latvia has agreed to carry out a number of measures to expand the role of the private sector and improve food supplies.

The corn will be purchased on behalf of USDA's Commodity Credit Corporation on an open tender basis by USDA's Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service's Kansas City Commodity Office. The supply period is fiscal 1993.

For more information, contact James F. Keefer, USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service, at (202) 720-9263.

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USDA ISSUES NUTRITION LABELING REGULATIONS FOR MEAT AND POULTRY PRODUCTS

WASHINGTON, Dec. 30—The U.S. Department of Agriculture today released final regulations requiring nutrition labels on processed meat and poultry products by July 1994.

“The new labels will be an important tool to help consumers select more healthful diets,” said Dr. H. Russell Cross, administrator of USDA’s Food Safety and Inspection Service. “We expect the labels also will provide food companies with an incentive to improve the nutritional quality of their products.”

The regulations, which designate the format and content of labels on meat and poultry processed products, closely parallel those of the Food and Drug Administration for labels on foods other than meat and poultry, Cross said. “As a result, consumers will see the same nutrition label format on virtually all processed foods,” he said.

Highlights of the new rules include:

- Mandatory nutrition labels on processed meat and poultry products, and voluntary labels for raw, single-ingredient foods such as roasts and chicken breasts.

- Standardized definitions for terms such as “light,” “low sodium,” and “lean” that appear on packages.

- Standardized serving sizes that are based on estimates of the amount a consumer would actually eat.

- More information on nutrients such as fat, cholesterol, and fiber, and new “Daily Values” to help consumers place the information within the context of their total diet.

Cross said FSIS also is requesting comments from the public on the definitions of the terms “healthy,” “healthful,” and other similar terms that may appear on meat and poultry product packages.

The new final labeling rules and the request for public comments are scheduled to appear Jan. 6, 1993, in the Federal Register, as are FDA’s final rules on labels. Comments on the proposal to define “healthy” and similar terms may be sent by Feb. 5, 1993, to: Policy Office, Attention: Linda Carey, FSIS hearing Clerk, Room 3171-S, Food Safety and inspection Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250-3700.

Copies of the regulations will be available from the FSIS Policy Office at the above address after publication in the Federal Register. Until then, copies may be obtained through the National Technical Information Service, 5285 Port Royal Road, Springfield, Va. 22161; telephone (703) 487-4660. The order number is PB 93-128759. Copies for media only are available from the FSIS public affairs office, (202) 720-9113, or from USDA's News Division, (202) 720-4026.

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WELFARE SIMPLIFICATION COMMITTEE TO MEET

WASHINGTON, Dec. 31—The Advisory Committee on Welfare Simplification and Coordination, established by Congress to study the federal government's welfare programs, will meet Jan. 7, 8 and 9 at the Holiday Inn Center City, 230 N. College Street, Charlotte, N.C.

The committee is examining federal food, medical, housing and cash assistance programs to determine how they can be simplified and coordinated to improve services to recipients. The panel will report its ideas to Congress by next summer.

At this third of its four scheduled meetings, the committee will review welfare conformity issues, observe housing demonstration projects that promote self-sufficiency, and open discussion on the content and format of their report to Congress.

The meeting, which is open to the public, will be held from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 7, and Friday, Jan. 8, and from 8:30 a.m. to noon Saturday, Jan. 9. The morning of Friday, Jan. 8, has been set aside for public comment. The public also may file written statements with the committee.

The committee was established by Congress. Its 11 members were appointed by the secretary of agriculture in March 1992. Previous meetings were held in Arlington, Va., and Seattle, Wash.

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**USDA ANNOUNCES PREVAILING WORLD MARKET PRICE AND
USER MARKETING CERTIFICATE PAYMENT RATE FOR
UPLAND COTTON**

WASHINGTON, Dec. 31—John Stevenson, acting executive vice president of USDA’s Commodity Credit Corporation, today announced the prevailing world market price, adjusted to U.S. quality and location (adjusted world price), for Strict Low Middling (SLM) 1-1/16 inch (micronaire 3.5-3.6 and 4.3-4.9, strength 24-25 grams per tex) upland cotton (base quality) and the coarse count adjustment (CCA) in effect from 5:00 p.m. today through 3:59 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 7. The user marketing certificate payment rate announced today is in effect from 12:01 a.m. Friday, Jan. 1, through midnight Thursday, Jan. 7.

The Agricultural Act of 1949, as amended, provides that the AWP may be further adjusted if: (a) the AWP is less than 115 percent of the current crop year loan rate for base quality upland cotton, and (b) the Friday through Thursday average price quotation for the lowest-priced U.S. growth as quoted for Middling (M) 1-3/32 inch cotton, C.I.F. northern Europe (USNE price) exceeds the Northern Europe (NE) price. The maximum allowable adjustment is the difference between the USNE price and the NE price.

A further adjustment to this week’s calculated AWP may be made in accordance with this provision. The calculated AWP is 79 percent of the 1992 upland cotton base quality loan rate, and the USNE price exceeds the NE price by 5.65 cents per pound. Following are the relevant calculations:

I.	Calculated AWP	41.17 cents per pound
	1992 Base Loan Rate	52.35 cents per pound
	AWP as a Percent of Loan Rate	79
II.	USNE Price	60.50 cents per pound
	NE Price	<u>-54.85</u> cents per pound
	Maximum Adjustment Allowed	5.65 cents per pound

Based on a consideration of the U.S. share of world exports, the current level of cotton export sales and cotton export shipments, and other relevant data, no further adjustment to this week’s calculated AWP will be made.

This week’s AWP and coarse count adjustment are determined as follows:

Adjusted World Price	
NE Price	54.85
Adjustments:	
Average U.S. spot market location	11.82
SLM 1-1/16 inch cotton	1.55
Average U.S. location	0.31
Sum of Adjustments	<u>-13.68</u>
Calculated AWP	41.17
Further AWP Adjustment	<u>- 0</u>
ADJUSTED WORLD PRICE	41.17 cents/lb.

Coarse Count Adjustment	
NE Price	54.85
NE Coarse Count Price	<u>-50.42</u>
	4.43
Adjustment to SLM 1-1/32 inch cotton	<u>-3.95</u>
COARSE COUNT ADJUSTMENT	0.48 cents/lb.

Because the AWP is below the 1991 and 1992 base quality loan rates of 50.77 and 52.35 cents per pound, respectively, the loan repayment rate during this period is equal to the AWP, adjusted for the specific quality and location plus applicable interest and storage charges. The AWP will continue to be used to determine the value of upland cotton that is obtained in exchange for commodity certificates.

Because the AWP is below the 1992-crop loan rate, cash loan deficiency payments will be paid to eligible producers who agree to forgo obtaining a price support loan with respect to the 1992 crop. The payment rate is equal to the difference between the loan rate and the AWP. Producers are allowed to obtain a loan deficiency payment on a bale-by-bale basis.

The USNE price has exceeded the NE price by more than 1.25 cents per pound for four consecutive weeks and the AWP has not exceeded 130 percent of the 1992 crop year base quality loan rate in any week of the 4-week period. As a result, the user marketing certificate payment rate is 4.40 cents per pound. This rate is applicable for bales opened by domestic users and for cotton contracts entered into by exporters for delivery prior to September 30, 1993. Relevant data used in determining the user marketing certificate payment rate are summarized below:

Week	For the Friday through Thursday Period	USNE Current Price	NE Current Price	USNE Minus NE	Certificate Payment Rate 1/
1	Dec. 10,	1992	59.85	54.10	5.75 4.50
2	Dec. 17,	1992	60.00	54.38	5.62 4.37
3	Dec. 24,	1992	59.10	54.41	4.69 3.44
4	Dec. 31,	1992	60.50	54.85	5.65 4.40

1/ USNE price minus NE price minus 1.25 cents.

Next week's AWP, CCA and user marketing certificate payment rate will be announced on Thursday, Jan 7.

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USDA ANNOUNCES FIRST QUARTER MEAT IMPORT ESTIMATE

WASHINGTON, Dec. 31—Acting Under Secretary of Agriculture Stephen L. Censky today announced that the first-quarter estimate of U.S. meat imports for calendar 1993 is 1,259.1 million pounds—100,000 pounds below the level that would trigger quotas or restraints on imports under the Meat Import Act of 1979.

Censky said that the trigger level, which is determined by formula in the law, has been calculated at 1,259.2 million pounds, 52 million pounds below the 1992 level.

“We have negotiated Voluntary Restraint Agreements (VRAs) with Australia and New Zealand,” said Censky, “and these should keep total imports of beef below the trigger level for the calendar year.”

Australia and New Zealand are the two largest suppliers of fresh beef to the U.S. market, and historically supply almost 90 percent of total U.S. fresh beef imports.

The Meat Import Act of 1979 requires the president to consider restrictions on imports of certain meat items—primarily beef and veal—if a USDA quarterly estimate of meat imports equals or exceeds the trigger level.

USDA's import estimate includes fresh, chilled or frozen meat of cattle, sheep (except lamb), goats and certain prepared beef and veal products.

Imports of meat subject to the law — by month — are:

	1989	1990	1991	1992
	————— million pounds —————			
January	74.5	90.7	66.0	97.6
February	80.3	97.1	85.9	99.3
March	88.5	115.4	114.4	91.2
April	97.1	118.0	97.1	129.9
May	104.0	76.9	101.5	143.2
June	103.4	100.8	145.2	132.2
July	114.6	121.3	121.9	167.5
August	111.0	122.2	144.6	114.2
September	90.2	137.7	113.8	75.6
October	83.6	99.9	173.3	151.3
November	57.4	131.8	82.5	95.6
December	136.8	141.0	84.4	
Total*	1,141.2	1,352.8	1,330.6	

*Totals may not add due to rounding.

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